THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

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PRESS RELEASE

January 29, 1986

JENNIFER BARTLETT: RECENT WORK
Through March 16, 1986

The Cleveland Museum of Art has launched a series of contemporary art exhibitions with recent works by one of the most inventive and energetic artists of her generation: Jennifer Bartlett. Her multi-media ensembles--one of them recently purchased by the Museum--will be displayed in Gallery 40 through March 16.

A California native (b. 1941) and Yale art school graduate, Jennifer Bartlett first received national attention in 1976 with her 153-foot-long piece titled Rhapsody. Her format and media have changed several times since then, but her imagery --house, tree, landscape, and ocean--remains the same. The Bartlett ensemble purchased by the Museum, Sunset and Concrete Dock, is an excellent example of her recent painting-with-environment works. Sunset is a landscape painting depicting trees and a geometric, red house. On the floor in front of the painting are two wood houses--one a version of the red house of the painting--and three concrete pieces, the "dock" of the title. In this piece, as in most of her recent work, Miss Bartlett fulfills her need to take over a space totally and appropriates an art-historical "quote" (many critics see Monet's famous haystack in the painted red house). She also has used a number of non-traditional media in this and the other ensembles: concrete, tile, aluminum, asphalt, roofing, plastic, seashell, and flagstone.

Sea Wall, another ensemble, consists of a 7' x 31' oil painting and 19 three-dimensional objects, including five boats (which Time magazine reviewer Robert Hughes called "antic parodies and phantoms of seaside fun, not one of which will float"). Tom Hinson, curator of contemporary art, selected the works and prepared a descriptive leaflet, available free in the Gallery. Works lent to the exhibition come from the Paula Cooper Gallery, the McIntosh/Drysdale Gallery, and a private collector.

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